

REMARKS

Claims 8 and 10-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 8 and 10-14 are amended, claim 9 is canceled and claims 15-22 are added. Claim 8 is amended to include the features of claim 9, new claim 15 contains the features of previously submitted claims 8 and 12 and new claim 19 contains the features of previously submitted claims 8 and 14. New claims 16-18 correspond to previously submitted claims 10, 11 and 13, and new claims 20-22 correspond to previously submitted claims 10, 11 and 13. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the amendments incorporate allowable subject matter into independent claims; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 9, 12 and 14 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 8, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over LePesant, U.S. Patent No. 4,636,785. The allowable features from claim 9 have been incorporated into claim 8, rendering the rejection moot.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over LePesant. As discussed above, the allowable features from claim 9 have been incorporated into claim 8, rendering the rejection of claim 11 moot.

New claim 15 is patentable because it contains all of the features of previously submitted claims 8 and 12, which were indicated as allowable subject matter.

New claim 19 is patentable because it contains all of the features of previously submitted claim 8 and 14, which were indicated as allowable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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